

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08 FPC-01 AF-10 NEA-10 DRC-01

ACDA-19 /227 W

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P R 181857Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6571

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 14915

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EEC XF

SUBJECT: EC SUMMIT: BRITISH VIEWS

REF: A) COPENHAGEN 3189, B) COPENHAGEN 3194

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. WE SAW BUTLER (HEAD, EUROPEAN
INTEGRATION DEPARTMENT, EXTERNAL, FOREIGN AND COMMON-
WEALTH OFFICE) DECEMBER 17 TO HEAR ACCOUNT OF EC SUMMIT.

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BUTLER SAID MEETING WAS CONFUSED AND DOMINATED BY
PRESENCE IN COPENHAGEN OF FOUR ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS AND

OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY QUESTION. BRITAIN HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FOCUS ADEQUATE ATTENTION ON EC REGIONAL POLICY, BUT APART FROM THIS, SESSION HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY. END SUMMARY.

2. BUTLER BEGAN BY SAYING IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GIVE AN ORDERLY ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING FOR AT LEAST TWO REASONS. FIRST, AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME HAD BEEN SPENT DISCUSSING WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE FOUR UNINVITED GUESTS-- THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ALGERIA, TUNISIA, THE SUDAN AND THE UAE. SECOND, PARTLY BECAUSE THE FRENCH HAD SAID THEY WANTED AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH NO COMMUNIQUE, THE SESSION HAD BEEN RELATIVELY UNSTRUCTURED. THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE MEETING HAD BEEN TO KEEP IT INFORMAL. THERE WAS AN AGENDA BUT VERY LITTLE BILATERAL PREPARATION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE UK WHICH, THROUGH ITS EUROPEAN POSTS, OUTLINED A GENERAL VIEW OF THE RESULTS THE BRITISH HOPED THE MEETING WOULD ACHIEVE. PRIME MINISTER HEATH HAD APPARENTLY LOOKED FORWARD TO AN INFORMAL SESSION, BUT, WE ARE TOLD, HE WILL BE RELUCTANT TO TOLERATE SUCH A DEGREE OF INFORMALITY AGAIN.

3. ON THE FIRST DAY A GREAT DEAL OF THE TIME IN THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING WAS SPENT TRYING TO DECIDE HOW TO DEAL WITH THE FOUR ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHO WERE EVENTUALLY RECEIVED LATE THAT NIGHT BY THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY SEEN BY THE ACTING DANISH PRIME MINISTER AND THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER WITH THE RESULTS REPORTED IN REF B. BUTLER COMMENTED THAT THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD COME WITH NO SPECIFIC REQUESTS AND COULD ADD NOTHING NEW TO WHAT WAS ALREADY KNOWN ABOUT THE ARAB POSITION. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, BUTLER SAID HE THOUGHT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE FRENCH HAD "INVITED" THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS, AS REPORTED IN SOME UK PAPERS. HE THOUGHT THE DECISION TO SEND THEM TO COPENHAGEN HAD BEEN MADE AT THE ARAB SUMMIT IN ALGIERS.

4. IN CONTACTS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, EC REPS
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NOTED THEIR SUPPORT FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND EMPHASIZED TWO POINTS. FIRST, IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO TREAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS ONE ENTITY. EUROPEAN UNITY WAS AS IMPORTANT TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS ARAB UNITY WAS TO THE ARABS. SECOND, CURRENT ARAB OIL POLICY COULD NOT HELP EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION REGARDING THE ARAB CAUSE, AND MIGHT WELL INHIBIT EUROPEAN ABILITY TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN THE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT. THE EC REPS ALSO MADE CLEAR TO THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT EACH EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT MUST PUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF ITS OWN

ECONOMY FIRST. THIS ASPECT OF THE SESSION RECEIVED MORE PUBLICITY FROM THE 1100 JOURNALISTS PRESENT THAN IT WARRANTED AND TENDED TO OVER-SHADOW THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING.

5. BUTLER OUTLINED THE SEQUENCE OF THE SESSION AS BEGINNING WITH AN OPEN SESSION ON THE FIRST DAY--FOLLOWED BY AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION AMONG FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING LUNCH, A DISCUSSION OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS AFTER LUNCH, A MEETING OF 3-4 HOURS OF THE HEADS OF STATE ALONE, FOLLOWED BY DINNER, AND A DISCUSSION OF ENERGY IN THE EVENING. ON SATURDAY MORNING, THE SECOND DAY, THERE WAS A LARGE MEETING FOLLOWED BY A RESTRICTED XGDS-1 SOHM

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P R 181857Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6572

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 LONDON 14915

MEETING OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. MOST OF THE DISCUSSION ON THE SECOND DAY CONCERNED ENERGY AND THE MIDDLE EAST. MUCH OF THE LATTER PART OF THAT DAY WAS SPENT DRAFTING THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING. THE DRAFTING EXERCISE BEGAN WHEN THE FRENCH, DESPITE THEIR INITIAL OPPOSITION TO ANY COMMUNIQUE, TABLED A DRAFT WHICH LED OTHER DELEGATIONS TO PRODUCE THEIR OWN PREPARED DRAFTS. WE WERE ALLOWED TO READ THE BRITISH DRAFT WHICH APPARENTLY FORMED THE BASIS OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE STATE-CONFIDENTIAL

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MENT REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT WHICH ALSO CONTAINED A SPECIFIC AND WARM REFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY ACTION GROUP AND OUTLINED THE BRITISH DESIRE FOR A EUROPEAN REGIONAL FUND TOTALLING THREE BILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT OVER THREE YEARS.

6. IN A REVIEW OF THE COMMUNIQUE PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH, BUTLER MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS. RE NUMBERED PARAGRAPH 2 OF TEXT TRANSMITTED REF A, BUTLER SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF THE TIMETABLE FOR EUROPEAN UNION. SOME DELEGATIONS HAD WISHED TO INSERT A DATE BY WHICH THE UNION WOULD BE ACHIEVED, OTHERS WISHED TO DELETE THE REQUEST TO THE PRESIDENCY TO MAKE THE NECESSARY PROPOSALS WITHOUT DELAY, ON THE GROUND THAT THIS PARAGRAPH MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS UPSTAGING THE COMMISSION

7. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE SUMMITS (PARAGRAPH 3), THE BELGIANS AND THE DUTCH OPPOSED A REGULAR SIX-MONTHLY SUMMIT. THE GENERAL CONCLUSION WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SUMMIT IN THE COURSE OF EACH PRESIDENCY BUT NOT NECESSARILY AT REGULAR SIX-MONTHLY INTERVALS. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT BE USURPED IN THE PROCESS.

8. BUTLER TERMED PARAGRAPH 4 AS A "STANDARD REFERENCE TO CRISIS MANAGEMENT." THE POLITICAL COOPERATION MACHINERY WILL SPELL OUT THE DETAILS.

9. RE PARAGRAPH 6, THE BRITISH WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE US-EC DRAFT DECLARATION. THE FRENCH OBJECTED, SAYING THAT IT WAS THEIR IMPRESSION THAT THE US NOW ATTACHED LESS IMPORTANCE TO THE DRAFT DECLARATION. BUTLER NOTED, AS EVIDENCE OF

THE CHANGING FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY, THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT HAVE ACCEPTED THE PHRASE "THE WEST AS A WHOLE" A YEAR AGO.

10. RE THE STATEMENT IN PARAGRAPH 7, THAT THE NINE GOVERNMENTS WERE READY TO ASSIST IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE, WE NOTED PRESS COMMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT ONE OR MORE EUROPEAN STATES HOPED TO BE PRESENT AT THE PEACE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. BUTLER REPLIED THAT WHEN THIS PARAGRAPH WAS DISCUSSED NO DELEGATION HAD RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A EUROPEAN PRESENCE AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

11. RE PARAGRAPH 8, BUTLER SAID THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF REGIONAL POLICY, MOST OF THE LANGUAGE COVERING SPECIFIC POINTS IN THIS PARAGRAPH CAME FROM THE FRENCH DRAFT OF THE COMMUNIQUE AND THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION EITHER IN THE DRAFTING GROUP OR AMONG THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THOSE POINTS. WITH REGARD TO THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, BUTLER SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GERMANS WERE DETERMINED NOT TO SETTLE THE ISSUE IN XGDS-1 SOHM

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 LONDON 14915

COPENHAGEN. THE UK WOULD HAVE LIKED AGREEMENT ON A
FIGURE AND THE PRIME MINISTER TRIED VERY HARD TO
SECURE A MORE DETAILED AND FAVORABLE MENTION OF REGIONAL
POLICY THAN FINALLY EMERGED. THE UK HOPED FOR A RE-
GIONAL FUND OF 750 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT IN THE FIRST
YEAR, A BILLION IN THE SECOND AND 1.25 BILLION IN THE
THIRD. THE FIGURES THE GERMANS WERE WILLING TO
CONSIDER WERE SO LOW THAT THE BRITISH CONCLUDED BRANDT
WISHED TO AVOID A DISCUSSION OF THE WHOLE ISSUE.
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12. WITH REGARD TO THE ENERGY DECLARATION, BUTLER
COMMENTED ONLY THAT AN EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO DRAFT THE
STATEMENT IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WOULD BE CLEAR THE
NETHERLANDS WAS NOT BEING ASSISTED BEHIND THE SCENES BY
ANY OTHER STATE. PRIME MINISTER HEATH HAD NOT WISHED TO
BE PUSHED TOO FAR ON THE ENERGY DECLARATION, AND BUTLER
TERMED THE DECLARATION "GENERALLY SATISFACTORY." ITS
PRINCIPAL POINT IS THAT IT DOES CONSTITUTE A FIRST AND
SUBSTANTIAL, IF VAGUE, STEP TOWARDS A COMMON ENERGY
POLICY. HOWEVER, NO ONE YET KNOWS WHAT INTERIM PROPOSALS
WILL BE PRODUCED BY THE COMMISSION.

13. ALTHOUGH THE UK HAD SUGGESTED A SPECIFIC REFERENCE
TO THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY ACTION
GROUP, THE FRENCH AND GERMANS HAD REPLIED THAT THEY HAD
HAD INADEQUATE TIME TO STUDY THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL,
AND HAD INSISTED THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO
MENTION IT BY NAME IN THE DECLARATION. THE

SUMMIT HAD, THEREFORE, SOUGHT BALANCE BETWEEN THE IDEAS OF PRODUCER AND CONSUMER COOPERATION. WITH REGARD TO THE REFERENCE TO THE OECD, BUTLER SAID IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO READ TOO MUCH INTO THE LANGUAGE ADOPTED AND THAT THIS REFERENCE NEED NOT EXCLUDE ANY SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION WHERE THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL WAS CONCERNED. FOR INSTANCE, THE OECD MIGHT ACT AS A CONSUMER COUNTRY CAUCUS WHILE THE ENERGY ACTION GROUP MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OECD, PARTICULARLY IF JOINT ACTION WITH PRODUCERS WAS ENVISAGED.

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Message Attributes

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